

had vision problems other than glaucoma. Equally important was the fact that 57,000 were given the good news that no eye disease was detected.

One outstanding initiative has been the Student Sight Savers Program. Through this project grants have been awarded to 46 medical schools and teaching hospitals across the country. The aim is to expose medical students to a clinical specialty, ophthalmology in their earlier years of medical school. Through this community service initiative, medical students across the country have screened as many as a quarter of the patients.

We, thus bear witness to a man and his dream. A dream we shared. He joined with many of my colleagues, and myself in seeking to preserve the sight of our people. He convinced glaucoma specialists, other experts and a team of volunteers to follow his lead. Mr. Grant also had the unwavering and committed support of his wife, Mrs. Eleanor Beers Grant. She not only lent him encouragement, but she became quite active in the affairs of the Foundation.

In his indefatigable pursuit, he challenges all of us to match his efforts. He is, moreover, sensitive to the cultural strands of our great nation and the need to seek out and care for those who lack health care services. He has taken his staff on mobile vans into what would be considered inaccessible areas.

This great body has honored many a deserving individual. I am extremely proud to offer a special tribute and recognize Stanley J. Bud Grant for all that he has done and will continue to do on behalf of the American people.

#### REBUILDING NEW ORLEANS

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, 106 days ago, the world watched as one of the worst natural disasters in the history of the United States came crashing down on our Gulf Coast. I spent much of the last weekend in New Orleans, touring the affected areas and speaking with folks about the recovery efforts.

The effects of the hurricane and its aftermath are eerily similar to natural disasters that in recent years have befallen my home state of West Virginia—floods of the 100-year variety.

Displaced families. Businesses boarded up. A sense of despair and unease in the community. Helpless citizens looking for someone, anyone, to provide some guidance to a sound and quick recovery.

The damage done to the Gulf Coast and New Orleans, in particular, is well documented. But so are the promises made to those residents who call New Orleans home. And those promises have so far gone unfulfilled.

Billions of dollars will be needed to rebuild New Orleans. First and foremost, the levee system, which failed New Orleans' residents in the aftermath of the hurricane, must be upgraded to protect from future 100-year storms. Some estimates put that cost at more than \$32 billion—and many in Washington are balking at the price tag.

My question is this: Can't we afford America? We have spent more than \$300 billion in Iraq and Afghanistan, yet this Republican Congress doesn't have a concrete plan to rebuild New Orleans, or the budget blueprint to do it. We are investing billions of American taxpayer dollars for bridges, levees and infrastructure in Baghdad, yet we can't get a commitment from our leaders to rebuild the levees in New Orleans for Americans. We have enacted tax cut after tax cut—most recently a \$95 billion cut for the wealthiest Americans—yet 78,000 American families displaced by the hurricane are still waiting for FEMA trailers in Louisiana.

And what about West Virginia? Parts of southern West Virginia are still recovering from the major floods of the past five years. Many families displaced by those floods have yet to be able to move back to their homes. And we are still unable to secure the necessary investment from the Corps of Engineers to prevent this kind of flood from ever happening again.

It is long past time to look inward and focus on the many issues confronting Americans in America. The flooding of New Orleans exposed more concerns than just the failure of the levee system. Investment in our schools, health care system, infrastructure and homeland security needs to be high on our list of priorities going forward.

This Administration and this Congress have decisions to make. For the sake of all of us who have been—and will be again—affected by severe flooding, it is my sincere hope that they choose to stand with the American people and invest in the rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

#### TRIBUTE TO GORDY NEWSTROM

### HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gordon (Gordy) Newstrom, who was a true pioneer and visionary in commercial aviation. A long-time resident of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Gordy Newstrom passed away yesterday, December 12, 2005, at the age of 93.

After training Naval Air Cadets during World War II, Gordy Newstrom returned to Coleraine, Minnesota to establish a flight school in 1944. That same year, Gordy Newstrom founded a charter airline service which he named Mesaba Airlines, to reflect its Minnesota roots. "Mesaba" is a Chippewa Indian word meaning "soaring eagle." For several years, Gordy Newstrom operated Mesaba Airlines as a Fixed Base Operator, while sharing his love of aviation by teaching aspiring pilots to fly. In 1950, Gordy Newstrom moved Mesaba's operations from Coleraine to Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Gordy Newstrom owned the company for its first 26 years of operation; in 1970 he sold it to the Halverson family of Duluth, who began the airline's first scheduled service in 1973.

Over the years, Mesaba Airlines has evolved into the eighth largest regional airline in the United States, with the distinction of being the nation's oldest regional airline. Although many operators in the aviation industry have come and gone, the airline founded by

Gordy Newstrom celebrated 61 years of continuous service earlier this year. Today, Mesaba Airlines flies to 100 destinations throughout the United States and Canada, through a cooperative agreement with Northwest Airlines.

To honor the many remarkable contributions Gordy Newstrom made to aviation and Northern Minnesota, the region's airport was renamed the Grand Rapids/Itasca County Airport-Gordon Newstrom Field. It was a well-deserved tribute to the founding father of Mesaba Airlines to honor his vision, dedication and determination.

An avid pilot throughout his life, Gordon Newstrom logged more than 40,000 hours in the cockpit, until piloting his last flight five years ago at the age of 87.

I am proud and honored to share with my colleagues this brief, but deserved tribute to Gordy Newstrom, who gave so much of himself to enrich the lives of others and to serve his community and his country.

#### HONORING RON CEFALO

### HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, in this chamber, we often hear rhetoric of great praise for athletes, authors and statesman. With great fanfare we announce legitimate accomplishments. Other times the rhetoric is to trumpet our own actions and plans with grand gestures, receptions and press.

An American humorist, Al Capp, once said, "The man who is not trying to reform the world—will!" Those who truly change our world are those who labor daily, without praise, to create a better life for themselves and those around them.

Today I would like to introduce the body to a man who is changing the world—not by doing something no one else can, but by doing something of which everyone is capable, but few choose to do. This gentleman is changing the world one person at a time.

Ron Cefalo, is a science teacher at Box Elder High School. He was recently recognized for his outstanding efforts in exciting kids on a regular basis to the world of physical science. That by itself is something not easy to do. The Air Force Association, after a rigorous search, first named Ron the AFA Teacher of the Year for Northern Utah. Later he was also chosen from the regional winners as the Air Force Association Teacher of the Year for the State of Utah.

In his 37th year of teaching, Ron can claim such accomplishments as sending two projects into space on the shuttle and coaching an award winning Academic Olympiad Team. Each year Ron takes students to the annual Utah State University Physics Day at Lagoon, an amusement park in Utah, which competitively demonstrates the properties of physics to 5,000 kids from Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming and Utah. Earlier this year Ron Cefalo's group took home seven awards in four different categories. Ron also won first place in the instructor competition for Curriculum Development. Utah State physics professor JR Dennison noted, "Ron has been participating and winning since the inception